

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/661,515

Examiner

George R. Koch III

Applicant(s)

LIM ET AL.

Art Unit

1791

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/12/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 55-66 and 71-74.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1-41 and 75-77 are cancelled.

2. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 1-41 and 75-77 directed to inventions non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 1-41 and 75-77 been cancelled.

3. The drawings filed 9/15/2003 are approved by the Examiner.

4. Claims 55-66 and 71-74 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: See the paper mailed 6/14/2007.

With regard to claims 55-63, while the prior art of record does suggest holding the first and second substrates apart by a predetermined distance and aligning using rough and fine alignment marks as claimed (for example, 2002/0043344, see Figure 4), the prior art does suggest doing so in the context of the limitations of claim 42.

With regard to claim 71, the prior art of record does not disclose, in the context of the limitations of claim 42, the further limitations of wherein the unloading includes: securing the

bonded substrates to the upper stage; raising the upper stage to which the bonded substrates are secured; arranging a loader proximate the bonded substrates, secured to the upper stage; releasing the bonded substrates from the upper stage, wherein the released bonded substrates are supported by the loader; and removing the loader supporting the bonded substrates from the substrate bonding machine.

With regard to claim 64-65, the prior art of record (Satoshi - see rejection of claims 52 and 53 above) does disclose applying a suction and electrostatic charge from the upper stage to the first substrate, and aligning the first and second substrate, the prior art of record does not disclose deactivating the electrostatic charge applied from the upper stage, raising the upper chamber unit to a predetermined height, determining the alignment state of the first and second substrates, and realigning the aligned first and second substrates as determined based upon the determination of the alignment state.

With regard to claim 66, the prior art of record does not disclose, in the context of the limitations of claim 42, the further limitations of providing a plurality of venting holes within the upper and lower stages, and providing low vacuum chamber pipelines to the sealed interior space, wherein the venting includes: in a first venting step, injecting nitrogen gas into the sealed interior space through the plurality of venting holes provided within the upper and lower stages; and in a second step, injecting nitrogen gas through the low vacuum chamber pipelines increase the pressure inside the sealed interior space equal to an atmospheric pressure.

With regard to claim 72, the prior art of record does not disclose, in the context of the limitations of claim 42, the further limitations of wherein the unloading includes: securing the

bonded substrates to the upper stage; raising the upper stage to which the bonded substrates are secured; raising a lift pin through the lower stage and over the upper surface, wherein the raised lift pin is proximate the secured bonded substrates; releasing the bonded substrates from the upper stage, wherein the released bonded substrates are supported by the raised lift pin; and arranging a loader proximate the bonded substrates supported by the raised lift pin; lowering the raised lift pin such that the bonded substrates are supported by the loader; and removing the loader supporting the bonded substrates from the substrate bonding machine.

With regard to claims 73-74, the prior art of record does not disclose, in the context of the limitations of claim 42, the further limitations of wherein the unloading includes: raising the bonded substrates above the upper surface, wherein the raised bonded substrates are supported by a raised lift pin arranged through the lower stage and over the upper surface; arranging a loader proximate the raised bonded substrates supported by the lift pin; lowering the raised lift pin such that the bonded substrates are supported by the loader; and removing the loader supporting the bonded substrates from the substrate bonding machine.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

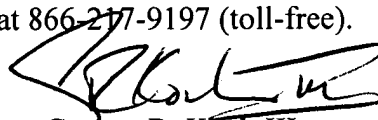
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George R. Koch III whose telephone number is (571) 272-1230 (TDD only). If the applicant cannot make a direct TDD-to-TDD call, the applicant can communicate by calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-866-377-8642 and giving the operator the above TDD number. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Philip Tucker can be reached on (571) 272-1095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


George R. Koch III
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1791

GRK
11/11/2007